

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An expansion valve comprising:

- a valve body;
- a first path formed inside said valve body through which high-pressure refrigerant flows;
- a valve chamber with a bottom formed inside said first path;
- a second path formed inside said valve body parallel to said first path, through which refrigerant flowing toward an evaporator flows;
- an orifice member including a throttle passage that communicates said valve chamber with said second path, said orifice member being press-fitted into said valve body;
- a valve member disposed facing said orifice member;
- a third path through which refrigerant exiting said evaporator flows;
- an actuating rod for operating said valve member;
- an actuating device for driving said actuating rod;
- an opening formed to said valve body that communicates said third path with said actuating device; and
- a guide member for slidably guiding said actuating rod, said guide member being press-fitted into an opening communicating said second path with said third path of said valve body; and
- a vibration insulating member disposed in the valve chamber and connected to the orifice member with the valve member in slidable contact with the vibration insulating member.

2. (Previously Presented) The expansion valve according to claim 1, wherein the inner diameter size of said opening formed to said valve body and communicating said third path with said actuating device is larger than the inner diameter size of said opening into which said guide member is press-fitted, and the inner diameter size of said opening into which said guide member is press-

fitted is larger than the inner diameter size of said opening into which said orifice member is press-fitted.

3. (Previously Presented) The expansion valve according to claim 1, wherein said valve member is fixed to a valve supporting member, and is further equipped with a spring provided between said valve supporting member and the bottom of said valve chamber.

4. (New) The expansion valve according to claim 1, wherein the vibration insulating member includes a ring portion and a plurality of retaining portions connected to and extending inwardly relative to the ring portion.

5. (New) The expansion valve according to claim 4, wherein the valve member is in slidable contact with the plurality of retaining portions.

6. (New) The expansion valve according to claim 4, wherein the ring portion contacts the orifice member.